

REMARKS

By the foregoing amendment, claims 1-24 and 33-35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer toward pursuit of these claims in a divisional or continuation application. Claims 36-43 have been added. Support for the added claims can be found at original claims 27-31 (claims 36-40), page 71, line 20 – page 72, line 15 (claims 41-43); and elsewhere in the specification.

Objection To The Drawings

The drawings have been objected to on the ground that the feature in original claim 26 is not illustrated. It is submitted that a drawing is unnecessary since the skilled worker could understand a sheet with an opening in it. Moreover, a drawing *is* provided that illustrates the claimed feature. For example, plate 3504 in Fig. 35 illustrates a sheet comprising an opening (plural openings in the illustrated embodiment). A person skilled in the art would understand that such a sheet could be inserted between the first and second layers of the invention of claim 25 to obtain the invention of claim 26.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 25-32 have been rejected as anticipated over Fuesser, U.S. Patent No. 6,101,715. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

There are numerous differences between Fuesser and the claimed invention. For example, in Fuesser, all the flow is within a single layer. In the invention of claim 25, flow is in at least two layers. Furthermore, claim 25 recites that the second channel comprises a dividing wall that separates

the second channel into first and second subchannels – this structure is not present in Fuesser's device.

Claim 27 is additionally patentable since it recites "wherein the second layer comprises multiple adjacent parallel microchannels separated by continuous channel walls wherein the continuous channel walls traverse the width of the multiple adjacent parallel microchannels in the first layer." Fuesser lacks continuous channel walls that separate parallel microchannels.

Unlike the invention of claim 31, Fuesser lacks any crossbars.

Conclusion

If the Examiner has any questions or would like to speak to Applicants' representative, the Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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